

Broadwater Rod and Gun Club Walleye Derby



Winner of the "Biggest Walleye"
Broadwater Rod and Gun Club Photo

Broadwater Rod and Gun Club

The Broadwater Rod and Gun Club (BRGC) welcomed 37 teams to Canyon Ferry Lake on Saturday, July 18, for its annual Walleye Derby at the Silos.

The BRGC Walleye Derby continues to emphasize its unique Adult/Child team category, encouraging families to spend quality time together on the lake.

The Broadwater Rod and Gun Club congratulates all this year's winners and thanks every team that participated.



Lots of young participants.
Broadwater Rod and Gun Club Photo

Female/Female Winners: 1st Harley Nance/Jade Nance, 2nd Tammy Chambers/Amanda Frank, 3rd Colleen Kynette/Kim Kondelik

Adult/Child Winners: 1st Lonnie/Gorder/Al-lison Bergman, 2nd Louis Tullos/Luke Tullos, 3rd Tim Fredrick/Karter Fredrick, 4th Jason Weathers/Maxen Weathers, tie for 5th place Jake Prevel/Rhett Prevel and Scott Anderson/Ali McGillivary, 7th Sam DesChene/Patrick DesChene, 8th Dan

Spence/Dannah Workman

Male/Female Winners: 1st Tom Tubbs/Roxanne Tubbs, 2nd Stefanie Haux/Brian Mook, 3rd Ron Gollehan/Meliss Rayome, 4th Braydon Veltkamp/Luciana DiGiando, 5th Dylan Steward, Ashley Steward, 6th Matthew Roche/Kenedy Roche

Overall Winner: Harley Nance/Jade Nance

Big Walleye: Harley Nance/Jade Nance

Big Carp: Tom Tubbs/Roxanne Tubbs

10Th Annual Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale a Success



The Woodring Garage Sale in town was quite busy
Photo Credit: Pam Sample



Out by the golf course, the Toney's had a busy morning
Photo Credit: Pam Sample

Victor Sample
MT43 News



July 18 brought beautiful weather (albeit hot) for the 10th Annual Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale. Hundreds of people were in Townsend and Broadwater County for the sale. While many of them were Broadwater County residents, there were a lot of shoppers from around Southwest Montana (Meagher, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, and Powell).

In 2017, we held the first County-Wide Yard Sale. I told Pam we needed at least 25 yard sales registered to make the event worthwhile, and I was nervous that we would not get that many. That first year we had around 45 yard sales on the maps and 100s of people



Ben and Jody Toney having fun with shoppers
Photo Credit: Pam Sample

shopping the sales.

When I created the maps for the first County-Wide Yard Sale, I was able to easily get them on one sheet of paper printed double-sided. This year we had 62 sales registered for the maps, and I created 7 individual maps that I was able to fit on 2 sheets of paper printed double-sided.

While I did not talk to all 62 people holding Yard Sales, the ones I talked to were very happy with the number of shoppers they had visit their sale and with the sales they made. One told me they made over \$1,700.00 on Saturday.

Not all shoppers were from Southwest Montana. Over the last 10 years, we have built up returning shoppers from as far away as Boise and Spokane. Last December I received an email from a couple in Boise asking when the County-Wide Yard Sale would be held. They said they come every year and they wanted to plan a vacation to attend the event.

Pam and I would like to thank everyone who participated in the event: the 62 people who held yard sales and the hundreds who shopped them!

Roadside Fire on Highway 287 Near Winston



Dry grass and high temperatures made the roadside fire spread quickly.
MT43 News Photo

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Anonymous volunteers stopped to help put out a fire beside the road near Winston Thursday about 11:45 a.m. One lady began beating the fire with a rug she carried in her car.



Volunteer trying to control fire last week on Highway 287 near the Spokane Road turnoff.
MT43 News Photo

The fire apparently started when a driver with a trailer was dragging a chain, according to Broadwater Rural Fire Chief Ed Shindoll: "I could see where the fire skipped alongside the road." Shindoll said the 1.2-acre fire was quickly brought under control by Winston Department volunteers and the county tanker truck. "Fortunately, we were able to put out the fire before it ran into the adjacent wheat field," he said.

Get your
Rodeo Info
inside!

Montana Lineman’s Rodeo



Hadessah Helfrich just rang the bell near the top of the pole during the Ladies Pole Climb.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson



The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 44 held its 33rd annual Montana Lineman’s Rodeo at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds on Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th. This is the third time it has been held here.

On Friday evening, there was a Lantern Ceremony / memorial service honoring the 16 linemen who have perished over the past year. Eight pole climbers hung up memorial lanterns for these 16 men and women onto a wire about 25 feet in width and about 30 feet high.

Each lantern had the name of the lineman being honored. The last names of six out of the eight climbers were not given. At the location where these climbers took up the lanterns, there was a sign dedicated to Dave Dixon, who died last year as a result of a car accident near the fairgrounds as he was driving to the event.

On Saturday, several different events occurred. Numerous vendors were present, as were an estimated count of at least 500 or more spectators. Several states were represented by the linemen. There was a Speed Climb, the Hurt Man Rescue, and the Pole Top Rescue, in



Climbers perform mock rescue of manikins in the Pole Top Rescue event.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

which the linemen climbed to the top of a pole to extract wounded climbers, which were actually mannequins.

Hadessah Helfrich, a lady from Colorado, participated in the Ladies Pole Climb. Each lady had to climb a pole and ring a bell when they got to the top. This is what Hadessah said about it: “I’m not sure how tall the pole was, but my dad said it was probably around 20 feet. If I had to describe my experience, I would say that it is harder than it looks. When I would see those guys climbing the poles, I thought it was an easy thing to do. When I started to climb, I was thinking that it is not a cakewalk. It was honestly just such a cool experience. My dad and his grandad were both journeyman linemen, so it was really cool to experience a bit of that. I am just so treated up, I got the opportunity, and I hope I can do it again sometime soon.”

Another event was a Pro & Novice Backhoe Rodeo for the contestants to dig holes for power lines.

Later in the afternoon, there was an IBEW Local 44 service pin presentation, followed by a banquet dinner & awards presentation.



Townsend's Andy Newman (left) and his partner Dan Reis competing in the Journeyman Mystery event at the Lineman's Rodeo last Saturday.
Kelly Morris Photography

Get Ready to Be Ridin’, Rockin’, and Livestockin’ at the 2026 Broadwater County Fair & Rodeo!

Jessica Erickson
Fair Manager

Long summer days and warm Montana nights can only mean one thing—the 2026 Broadwater County Fair & Rodeo is almost here! Join us August 6–9 at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds for four days of family fun, exciting entertainment, friendly competition, and unforgettable memories as we celebrate this year's theme: Ridin’, Rockin’, and Livestockin’!

Free Family Entertainment All Weekend

This year's fair is packed with free entertainment for all ages. Be sure to catch Mickey O'Connor, a hilarious magician, juggler, and comedian who will be strolling the fairgrounds three times each day on Friday and Saturday. His interactive performances and laugh-out-loud antics are guaranteed to entertain the entire family.

Kids—and kids at heart—can also enjoy a free mechanical bull, bounce house, and hands-on STEAM and pottery activities provided by STOKE.

Don't miss these special local performances:

- Honey Hive Dance Academy – Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Broadwater County 4-H/STOKE Robotics Team Demonstration – Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday brings even more excitement with the 4th Annual Pie Eating Contest at Noon, followed by the always-popular Fair Games from Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Great Music and Community Fun

The Entertainment Tent will once again feature free live music throughout the weekend.

- Cody Strunk performs Friday at 3:30 p.m.
- Mike Killeen takes the stage Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Wrap up Saturday evening with one of the fair's favorite traditions—the Free Family Dance from 9:00 p.m. to Midnight. The Karaoke Company will provide the music and entertainment for a fun-filled evening that's perfect for the whole family.

Explore Hundreds of Open Class Exhibits

Our Open Class exhibits continue to showcase the incredible talent and creativity found throughout

Broadwater County. This year, more than 700 entries have already been submitted, featuring everything from handcrafted quilts and woodworking projects to LEGO creations, charcuterie boards, baked goods, flowers, and garden-fresh vegetables.

Open Class registration has now closed except for Horticulture. Horticulture exhibits do not require pre-registration and may be entered during check-in. Pick up a Fair Book at the Fair Office, located at 416 Broadway in Townsend, for complete entry information.

Show Your Patriotism and Win Cash!

There's still time to participate in this year's "Celebrating 250 Years" Patriotic Craft Contest. Create a patriotic-themed craft project, show off your creativity, and compete for cash prizes. Entries do not require pre-registration and should be delivered to the 4-H Building on Wednesday, August 5, between 10:00 a.m. and Noon.

Plan Your Visit

Be sure to watch for the complete Fair Week schedule in the July 31 edition of MT 43 News, so you won't miss any of the exciting events.

For more information about the 2026 Broadwater County Fair & Rodeo, contact Jessica Erickson, Fair Manager, at 406-266-9242, email fair@broadwatercountymt.gov, or stop by the Fair Office at 416 Broadway in Townsend.

We look forward to welcoming everyone for another incredible year of celebrating agriculture, community, and family traditions at the Broadwater County Fair & Rodeo. We'll see you August 6–9!

July Fair Board

Rachael Brug
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Broadwater County Fair Board got some exciting news at its July meeting: the rodeo will feature a jumbotron with live instant replay for the first time ever, while pre-registration entries for the fair have climbed more than 35 percent over last year.

Denise Thompson, the board's Rodeo Board Liaison, announced that a large video screen will be positioned at the southeast end of the arena for Friday and Saturday of rodeo weekend. A team of three

Fair Board,



Canyon Ferry Reservoir: More Than Just A Pretty Lake

Rachael Brug
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Canyon Ferry Reservoir: More Than Just a Pretty Lake—A Beloved Neighborhood Getaway

A new comprehensive study of Canyon Ferry Reservoir has finally shed light on what locals have long known: this 76-mile shoreline gem isn't a tourist destination—it's our recreation hub. The latest research from the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research reveals a portrait of repeat visitation, tight-knit community connections, and predictable use patterns that tell a story about how Montanans really recreate.

The Regular Visitor: Meet Your Canyon Ferry Neighbor

Nearly 90 percent of Canyon Ferry visitors are repeat users, averaging 12 visits per year. That's not casual tourism—that's a lifestyle. And the vast majority of those visitors are Montanans, with 73 percent of all intercept survey respondents residing in the state. Lewis and Clark and Gallatin Counties dominate, but even Broadwater County residents, just south at Townsend, account for 7 percent of visitors.

These aren't tourists making a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. They're families heading out on a Saturday morning, anglers meeting friends for a weekend fishing trip, and multi-generational groups recreating in places they return to year after year.

"I've been coming here my whole life," is a refrain that appears again and again in visitor comments. One respondent noted camping at Canyon Ferry with children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren—three generations making memories at the same lake.

Quick Getaways and High Turnover

The data confirms what anyone visiting on a summer weekend already knows: most Canyon Ferry trips are short. Nearly 40 percent of respondents were day-users, spending an average of just over four hours at the reservoir. Of those staying overnight, the median stay was only two nights. Even the longest overnight stays rarely exceeded three days.

This quick-turnover pattern has important implications for management. Rather than long-duration occupancy, the reservoir experiences high-frequency turnover, particularly during peak times. Someone launching a boat at Silos Marina on a Friday might use a site for eight hours and be gone by evening, making room for the next group.

Where Everyone Goes: The Geography of Recreation

Recreation at Canyon Ferry is decidedly concentrated. Silos Recreation Area is the undisputed hub, accounting for more than a third of all visitation. Shannon Boat Launch, Hellgate Recreation Area, and Goose Bay follow, with most other sites receiving comparatively modest use.

Remarkably, most visitors rarely venture far from where they first arrive. About 95 percent of visitors intercepted at Silos stayed within that recreation area during their visit. The same pattern held true at other major sites. Rather than exploring the entire reservoir, visitors tend to remain at their chosen access point for their entire trip.

This concentration creates distinct pressure points—and distinct opportunities for targeted management. Rather than spreading resources across 22 sites, infrastructure investments can be strategically placed where they'll have maximum impact.

What Draws Them: Fishing, Boating, and Belonging

When asked why they chose Canyon Ferry, visitors overwhelmingly cited proximity and convenience. But the reasons they returned painted a richer picture: scenic beauty, good fishing, and the intangible quality

of a place where they belong.

Fishing from boats was the single most common primary activity (25 percent of visitors), followed by powerboating (18 percent). Camping was substantial too, with 13 percent citing auto/RV camping as their primary activity. But the real story emerges when looking at the full visit: visitors typically engaged in 3.6 different activities during a single trip, combining boating, fishing, camping, and shoreline recreation in seamless combinations.

"I like the natural beauty," one visitor wrote. Another described it simply as "quiet" and "not crowded." The lake's proximity was nearly universal: "close to home," "convenient," and "easy to get to" appeared repeatedly in open-ended responses.

Crowding: A Perception Problem at Specific Times
Here's where the data gets interesting. Quantitative measures suggest that crowding at Canyon Ferry is generally moderate, yet visitor comments frequently mention feeling crowded, particularly at boat ramps and campgrounds during peak periods.

The resolution to this apparent paradox is timing and location. Waiting lines at boat ramps were observed in only 7 percent of observation periods, and when they occurred, they typically lasted just a few minutes. Yet those brief frustrations create lasting impressions, especially when they happen on a holiday weekend when you just want to get your boat in the water.

Parking and campground capacity, meanwhile, showed more consistent pressure. With limited parking at some sites and campgrounds reaching 60+ percent occupancy on peak weekends, these facilities—rather than boat ramps—represent the most consistent infrastructure bottlenecks.

The lesson? Crowding at Canyon Ferry isn't a system-wide problem. It's predictable and localized, concentrated at specific sites during predictable peak periods (holidays, mid-summer weekends, and Thursday through Sunday).

The Bottom Line: High Satisfaction Meets Infrastructure Demand

Visitor satisfaction remains high overall, with an average rating of 6.49 on a 7-point scale. Respondents rated visitor services and facility quality at 5.6 and 5.7 respectively. Most importantly, when visitors felt crowded, it rarely changed their behavior. Of those perceiving high crowding, 90 percent stayed at their chosen location rather than relocating.

Yet the needs are real. Visitors identified priorities for expansion that underscore capacity concerns: 30 percent wanted more campgrounds, 26 percent wanted additional fishing docks, and 25 percent called for more boat ramps. Improved accessibility for visitors with disabilities also emerged as a priority, particularly for shoreline access and walkways.

A Resource Worth Protecting

The economic impact of Canyon Ferry's recreation is substantial. Non-resident visitors alone reported spending over \$119,000 during their visits to the study area, primarily on fuel, groceries, and campground fees. But the true value extends beyond dollars—it's in family traditions, community bonds, and the intangible benefits of accessible outdoor recreation for working Montanans.

As pressures on Canyon Ferry continue to mount, this research provides a roadmap for sustainable management: concentrate improvements at primary access points, manage peak-period congestion through smart operations and visitor communication, and maintain the accessible, locally-oriented character that makes Canyon Ferry what it is.

For locals who've been visiting Canyon Ferry for decades, that's all the data they need. The lake's already told them everything that matters: it's beautiful, it's close to home, and it's exactly the kind of place people keep coming back to, year after year, generation after generation.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State

Park Announces Tours

Fish, Wildlife and Park

Tours available by reservation only from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Staff at Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park are pleased to reopen the cave and the upper visitor center for the 2026 season. Cave tours will be offered May 1 through Sept. 30.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, cave tour tickets will be available by reservation only and must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance. This will help visitors plan ahead for their visit to the Caverns, and it will allow park staff to accommodate visitors efficiently and fairly during seasons of high demand.

During the shoulder seasons—prior to Memorial Day or after Labor Day—any unsold tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the park.

Tour reservations can be made online (click on Tours and Programs) or by phone at 1-855-922-6768. Tours cannot be purchased by calling the park directly. Visitors are encouraged to check the website frequently as tour options, times and availability may change throughout the season.

In addition to tours of the cave, the park offers a variety of other recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking and biking trails, interpretive programs, a gift shop, café, nearby access to the Jefferson River, and much more. The campground and trails are open, and the showers, comfort station and water stations will reopen as weather allows. Campgrounds are reservable from May 15 to Sept. 20. These can be reserved online by visiting <https://montanastateparks.reserveamerica.com>.

Paradise Tour

The Paradise Tour includes a view of the largest and most decorated room in the cave—the Paradise Room. This 1-mile tour lasts 90 minutes. It includes 15 stairs between two rooms, but the path is mostly level and ADA accessible. Because the Paradise Tour provides better accessibility and easier passage, this tour may be preferable for visitors with small children, claustrophobia, or those who prefer a less arduous experience. Please contact the park if you have questions.

Tickets for the Paradise Tour are \$10 for visitors ages 62 and older, \$15 for visitors ages 15 to 61, \$10 for kids ages 5 to 14, and free for anyone 4 or younger.

Classic Tour

The Classic Tour features a 2-mile journey through the majority of the developed cave and includes the second-largest and longest rooms on the cave tour. This tour lasts two hours and includes more than 600 stairs, stooping and tight squeezes. It is not recommended for visitors with claustrophobia or mobility limitations.

Tickets for the Classic Tour are \$15 for visitors ages 15 and older, and \$10 for kids ages 5 to 14. Children ages 4 or younger are not allowed on the Classic Tour.

Interpretive programs

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park offers a variety of weekly interpretive programs, including guest lectures, ranger talks and guided hikes. Beginning the week of Memorial Day, the park will host ranger talks on Friday evenings and guest speakers on Saturday evenings. As these event schedules are finalized in the coming weeks, they will be posted on FWP's Region 3 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MontanaFWP.R3>

Planning your visit

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is a full-service park offering a wide variety of recreational activities, including an extensive trail system for hikers and bicyclists, a large family-friendly campground with a playground and bathhouse, two visitor centers, a café serving hot and cold meals, gift shop, an amphitheater, and many interpretive programs and features in addition to cave tours. Camping options include electric and non-electric sites, cabins, a wall tent, and hiker/ biker sites. Access to the Jefferson River for floating or fishing is available through several nearby fishing access sites. The cave itself features one of the most decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest, filled with spectacular stalactites, stalagmites, columns and helictites.

Bats occupy some rooms that are part of the Classic Tour. Bats can be susceptible to pathogens carried by people, such as the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. For this reason, visitors are asked not to wear any clothing, shoes or accessories—including glasses, jewelry and cameras—that have been in another cave or mine in the past five years.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is about 15 miles southeast of Whitehall along Montana Highway 2. For more information about the park, call 406-287-3541 or visit us at: <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/lewis-and-clark-caverns>

Historic Canton Church

July 24 at 5:00pm

Kamara and Friends will be performing.

Kamara Wilbur is an accomplished musician and vocalist.

Kamara and friends will be performing classical Folk Fiddle and original numbers.



Canton Church Events are always Free
But donations are appreciated

Townsend School & Sports

AUGUST

Mon 3 - Tue 4

- Middle School/High School Volleyball Camp

Tuesday 4

- 7:00 pm: Booster Club Meeting - High School Lobby

Wednesday 6

- 7:00 pm: Old Baldy - Library Book Club at the Library



Broadwater County Government Calendar

JULY

Tuesday 28

- 9:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 29

- 10:00 am: Commissioners Meeting



Broadwater Community Calendar

JULY

Friday 24

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes
- 5:00 pm: **FREE**- Historic Canton Church Presents Kamara and Friends at Canton Church

SEE AD ON PAGE 3

Saturday 25

- 9:00 am: 2026 Backyards of Broadwater at Broadwater **SEE AD ON PAGE 12**
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Sat 25 - Sun 26

- 9:00 am: LAST BEST YARD SALE 2.0

SEE AD ON THIS PAGE

Monday 27

- 5:00 pm: Couples Bible Camp at Flynn Cabin; Dry Creek
- 9:00 am: VBS- Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God at Trailhead Church

Tuesday 28

- 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club

Wednesday 29

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 30

- 3:00 pm: Townsend Farmers Market at Wi-Fi Park
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 31

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves and Lattes
- 5:00 pm: Date Night at the Pottery Studio at Pottery Guild, 108 N. Spruce

SEE AD ON THIS PAGE

AUGUST

Saturday 1

- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Thu 6 - Sun 9

- 63rd Annual Townsend Rodeo

SCHEDULE ON PAGE 2

Sunday 16

- 11:00 am: Estate Auction **SEE AD ON THIS PAGE**

East Helena Schools & Sports

AUGUST

Tuesday 4

- 6:00 pm: East Helena High School Fall Sports Parent Meeting

BROADWATER ROD AND GUN CLUB

EXTENDS A SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SPONSORS OF THE 2026 WALLEYE DERBY.





SPONSORS:

- CANYON ENTERPRISES (SILOS CAMPING)
- DESIGNER TACKLE
- GREAT NORTHERN PAWN
- HEDSTROM AUTO REPAIR
- OPPORTUNITY BANK

- RIDGELINE CRANE
- ROCKY MTN SUPPLY
- TOWNSEND MARINE
- WALLEYES UNLIMITED OF MT (GALLATIN/MADISON CHAPTER)

STOKE POTTERY PROGRAM

DATE NIGHT

at the

POTTERY STUDIO

\$100 Per Couple 18+ Years

Create with the wheel, slab and glaze premade pieces!

Appetizers, dessert included

 Sign up at STOKEMT.org 

LIBRARY HOURS

Broadwater School & Community Library

The library reopens Friday, June 5th, at 9:00 am with summer hours! Curbside available. Please call: (406)441-3461



201 N Spruce St, Townsend
Photo Provided

PUBLIC SUMMER HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 1:00 to 7:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 9:00 to 4:00 PM

Closed Sunday

EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS

Andrea Eckerson
Branch Manager

HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday:
10 am- 6:00 pm.

Thursday and Friday:
10 am- 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm

Sundays: Closed



Lewis & Clark Library East Helena Branch, 16 E Main Street in East Helena. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

JULY

Tuesday 28

- 10:30 am: Storytime in Main St Park

Wednesday 29

- 10:30 am: Storytime

Thursday 30

- 1:00 pm: Crafternoon

Friday 31

- 3:00 pm: Reading Circle Book Group



Broadwater Food Pantry

P.O. Box 1164 • Townsend, MT 59644

Broadwater Food Pantry is located at 315 Broadway, Townsend, MT.

Distribution days (1st & 3rd Saturday + 5th if applicable)

July 4th and 18th: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Donations of food items are accepted Friday July 3rd and July 17th: 9:00 to 11:00am

This month donation suggestions: Canned pasta meals, crackers, tuna, fresh fruit & vegetables.

Monetary donation can be mailed to PO Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644.

Donation boxes are available at Bob’s Market at check stands.

Food Pantry is staffed by volunteers from local churches. July is Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

For questions, donations appointments and emergency food supplies **call OUR NEW PHONE number (406) 916-0034.**

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

YARD SALES & MORE!

LAST BEST YARD SALE 2.0!

Saturday July 25th 9:00 to 3:00 & Sunday July 26th 9:00 – 12:00

4165 Hwy 284 (3 miles east of town)

Farmhouse decluttering!

Antiques, Collectables, Vintage/Rustic Items, Household, handmade jewelry.

Priced to move!

ESTATE AUCTION

1021 US HWY 12E, TOWNSEND, MT 11AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

'69 Ford Mustang, '73 VW Beetle, '71 Ford Mustang (project), Vintage Ford/Chevy/VW Parts, 2021 Aspen Trail Travel Trailer,

Firearms, Silver Coins, Vintage Quarter Slot Machine & Vintage Silver Gaming Tokens,

Shop Equipment, Tools, Antiques, Primitives, Stone-ware, & MUCH MORE!

Flyer Online **HAGEDORNAUCTION.COM** (406)595-3377

The Olde Place

Herbs, Spices, Teas, Sprays

Antiques & Vintage Collectibles

Birds Nest **Booth B-11** Townsend

Kathryn McBee & Family

406-570-0299

PRICE REDUCED- \$499,900.



Single Level 3 Bed 2 bath home w office

Large 1.56-acre landscaped lot

Productive veggie garden

Oversized attached garage

Just East of Townsend, 13 Sharon Loop

MLS 410004

Contact Dan Porter-Realtor, 406-539-0879, dan@bozemanbrokers.com, Bozeman Brokers Real Estate

ACCEPTING BIDS!

Old Baldy Golf Course is accepting bids for the construction of a new clubhouse. Qualified contractors are invited to submit proposals for this project.

For project details, bid specifications, and additional information, please contact Scott DeMars at demarsscott@gmail.com.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.

Next meeting: August 19, 7:30PM

At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St

See Board Meeting Agenda at: https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov/community/rural_fire_board.php

Monthly Chamber Meeting



Thursday, August 20

8:30am @ Heritage Park

All members of the community welcome!

NOTARY PUBLIC



Notary Service Available

At MT43 News Office

408 Broadway St, Townsend, MT

Mon - Fri 10:00 – 2:00pm

Or by Appointment

Contact: Brenda Phillips

406-231-9752





Dedicated to Restore And Preserve Radersburg History

The mission of Radersburg Historical Preservation, Inc. is to restore and preserve Radersburg, MT history. We are a nonprofit organization (501)(c3) that depends upon membership, donations and grants. Our historic Methodist Church needs repairs to the north side this summer. We are also planning to complete the ADA accessible ramp on the Schoolhouse.

Every Contribution large or small brings us one step closer to our mission. Please consider making a fully tax deductible donation to Radersburg Historical Society. Donations can be sent to PO Box 96, Toston, MT 59643. We truly appreciate your support and commitment to the RHPI mission.

305 Broadway St, Townsend
(406) 266-3867
Dining Hours:
Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM,
Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM
Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM
Closed Monday & Tuesday
SPECIAL:
N/A

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices are required to print in local newspapers and may hold private or public interest. Here you may read about Probate Notices, Estate Settlements and other Judicial Actions as well as important Broadwater County notices.



Public Hearing

The City of Townsend has completed its preliminary annual budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. There will be a public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana.
The preliminary budget has been placed on file at the same location and is open to inspection.
For additional information, please call City Clerk, Kari Williams at (406) 266-3911.
Published July 17 and 24, 2026

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Broadwater County Planning Board will be taking comments regarding a proposed subsequent minor subdivision, G&J Subsequent Minor Subdivision. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 11th at 1:00pm in the Flynn Building located at 416 Broadway Street, Townsend.
The proposed subdivision is located in Section 30, Township 3 North, Range 1 East, Broadwater County. The property is located off of Whippoorwill Drive approximately 4.25 miles northwest of the I-90/ Highway 287 interchange. There are 4 lots being reviewed all being 1.01 acres in size.
Written comments are also being accepted.
Broadwater County Planning Board
Published July 24, 2026

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Townsend Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 13, 2026, at City Hall, 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana.
The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a manufactured home within the R-2, Medium Density Residential District.
Pursuant to Section 13.13.030 “Conditional Use Permits Review” of the Townsend Zoning Ordinance the Zoning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposals.
The CUP proposes a manufactured home located at 312 South Cedar Street within the R-2, Medium Density Residential District. The property is legally described as Lot 9-10, Block 36, Townsend Original Townsite.
Maps and related data regarding this application may be reviewed by contacting Jeremy Fadness, WWC Engineering, 1275 Maple Street, Suite F, Helena, MT 59601, 406-443-3962. Written comments may be directed to the Deputy City Clerk, 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana 59644. Written comments must be received by August 13, 2026, by 4:00 p.m. Interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and make known their views and concerns on the proposed Variance application.
UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, THE CITY OF TOWNSEND WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE PERSONS WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK.
Published July 24 and 31, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARILYN MARGARET BARNETT, Deceased.
Probate No. ADP-26-24
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Lee A. Barnett has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Claims against the decedent must be presented within four months after the first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to the Personal Representative via his Attorney, Peter T. Simon (303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644) return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court.
Dated July 10, 2026.
/s/ Peter T. Simon
GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC
Attorney for Personal Representative
Published July 10, 17 and 24, 2026

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
BROADWATER COUNTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of Dallas Sumner (Child’s name)
Melinda Sumner Petitioner
Charles Sumner Co-Petitioner
Cause No.: DDG-2026-01
NOTICE OF HEARING ON GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR CHILD
THE STATE OF MONTANA SENDS GREETINGS TO: Ruby Sumner (insert names of all parties who must receive notice)
NOTICE IS GIVEN to the birth parents of the minor child(ren) above referenced and all other interested persons that Petitioner(s) has/have filed a petition with the Clerk of this Court to become the guardian(s) of the minor child(ren).
The hearing on the Petition will be held at 515 Broadway St, Townsend, MT (court and address) in Broadwater County on the following date and time: Date: 8/28/26 at 10:30 a.m.
Your failure to attend the hearing may result in the relief requested by the Petitioner(s) being granted.
Date: 6/29/26
By: Desiree Taves Deputy Clerk of District Court
Published July 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 2026

MNAXLP

AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT

An audit of Townsend Public School has been conducted by Nexus CPA Group, PLLC. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication of the following summary of significant findings.
SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS
The audit report for Townsend Public School for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, was unmodified.
The audit report also contained several other auditors’ reports. Following is a list of the reports and a summary of the findings included in each. This is only a summary and is not intended to be used as an audit report.
1. Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters based on an audit of Financial Statements performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. This report contained findings in the following matters:
a. 2025-001Cash Reconciliation
b. 2025-002 Student Activities Controls
c. 2025-003 Unrecorded Due from Other Governments
d. 2025-004 Required Supplementary Information
e. 2025-005 Insufficient Recording & Support for Credit Card Expenditures
2. Report on Other Compliance, Financial and Internal Accounting Control Matters.
This report contained no findings.
3. Report on Prior Audit Report Recommendations. This report summarized the findings from the prior audit report, and noted the action taken on them.
a. 2024-001 Required Supplementary Information (Repeated)
b. 2024-002 Program Income (Not Repeated)
PUBLIC INSPECTION OF AUDIT REPORT
The complete audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at the Townsend Public Schools Business Office.
*Courtney Bancroft – District Clerk
Townsend Public School
Published July 24, 2026*

MNAXLP

Justice of the Peace Report

suspended or revoked, 1st offense – found guilty - \$35 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with all jail suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and payment of fine.
Alexandria Mceldowney – East Helena – Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08% BAC or greater, 1st offense – plead guilty - \$1,085 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all six (6) months suspended with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of other programs. Defendant to enroll in ACT class within one (1) month, to be completed within four (4) months.
- Reckless driving, 1st offense – plead guilty - \$135 fines & fees. Sentenced to ninety (90) days in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all jail suspended with good behavior and payment of fines. Court recommends restrictive probationary license after payment of reinstatement fees.
Catherine Shields – Helena – Operate a vehicle with alcohol concentration of .02% BAC, under 21 years of age (over 18), 1st offense – plead guilty - \$285 fines & fees, Defendant to enroll in the ACT class within one (1) month, to be completed within four (4) months.
- Criminal Possession of Drug paraphernalia – Plead no contest - \$275 fines & fees.
Court to defer imposition of sentence for one (1) year with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of other programs. Defendant to enroll in ACT within one (1) month, to be completed within four (4) months.
- Driving without a valid driver’s license – plead guilty - \$225 fines. Court recommends
Restrictive probationary license after payment of reinstatement fees.
Mark Meeks – Townsend – Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of .08% BAC or greater, 1st offense. \$985 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all six (6) months suspended with good behavior, payment of fine, and completion of other program. Defendant to enroll in ACT within one (1) month, to be completed within four (4) months. Court recommends restrictive probationary license after payment of reinstatement fees.

MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

Justin Neibaur – Blackfoot, ID – Fail to follow conditions and requirements of special permit – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees
Daniel Fahrenkrug – Butte – Fail to follow conditions and requirements of special permit – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

Madison Michael – Townsend – Defendant was given a courtesy appearance in Justice Court to have the charges explained to them. Defendant is innocent until proven guilty. Defendant is charged with Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs, 1st offense, as well as two counts of Criminal Child Endangerment. Defendant was given a District Court Hearing Date. \$5,000.00 bond with conditions of release.

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

Brian Ronning – Mesa, AZ – Seatbelt Violation – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Scott Pharr – Bozeman – Speeding on National 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees
- Operating with expired registration – failure to reregister – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees
Lucas Killion – Three Forks – Speeding on National 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Amber Cook – Belgrade – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Desirae Cain – Helena – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Stacey Bencic – Lynn, MA – Speeding on National 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Kyra Bache – Three Forks – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Robert Ashton – Clancy – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees
Tatum Russell – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees
Mariah Megaard – Bozeman – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees
Leviyah Kern – Three Forks – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Ulises Ramos – Butte – Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked, 2nd offense – plead guilty - \$285 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with execution of all jail suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and payment of fines.
Justin Blagg – Townsend – Reckless driving, 1st offense – plead guilty - \$135 fines & fees. Court to defer imposition of sentence for two (2) years with good behavior and payment of fine.
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Ayshia Traeholt – Belgrade – Person under 12 years without personal flotation device – paid fine - \$85 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Izaac Brown – Arizona – Displaying License Plates assigned to another vehicle – found guilty - \$45 fines & fees
- Operating without liability insurance in effect, 1st offense – found guilty - \$275 fines & fees
- Criminal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - found guilty - \$85 fines & fees. Sentenced to six (6) months in Broadwater County Jail with all jail suspended for six (6) months with good behavior and payment of fine.
- Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is

COURT BEAT

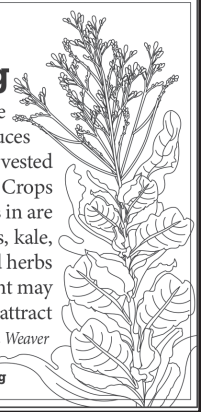
Valerie Hornsveld
MT43 News Reporter



Judge Kathy Seeley presided over the following cases. County Attorney Kevin Bratcher brought the charges. The defense attorney, Qasim Abdul-Baki, appointed Public Defender, acted as attorney for the cases.
Charles Sperry- Initial Hearing for charges of Possession of dangerous drugs. The defendant was ready to proceed with the arraignment, and a Not Guilty Plea was entered. The following dates were set: Omnibus, August 28, 2026; Pre-trial, December 17, 2026; and Jury Trial, January 25, 2027.
Joshua Ross failed to appear for his Evidentiary Hearing. A Warrant was requested by the County Attorney and granted by the Judge with a \$25,000 bond.
On July 16th, 2026, there were two hearings that were also held.
Harvey Wildman- Revocation Hearing, where his Sentence was revoked and resentenced along with his Lewis and Clark County Case.
Diana Lewis- Parole Hearing- The Hearing was held at the Montana State Women's Prison. The defendant’s parole was denied, and she will not be able to apply for parole for 3 years.



Bolting
Bolting, or “going to seed,” is the stage of crop plant growth that produces flowers and seeds. If the crop plant is harvested after bolting, it’s likely to taste bitter. Crops well-known for bolting as summer heat sets in are lettuce, spinach, arugula, broccoli, cabbages, kale, collards, carrots, radishes, beets, turnips and herbs such as cilantro, dill and parsley. A bolted plant may not taste very good, but its flowers can attract many pollinators to your garden. – Brenda Weaver
Sources:
gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu, www.civickgardencenter.org



County Commissioner Meeting

Rachael Brug

MT43 News Staff Reporter



7/15/26

Broadwater County Commissioners advanced a proposed ordinance to raise the speed limit through Winston at their July 15 meeting, drawing public comment and data showing most drivers already exceed the current 15 mph limit, while also approving the county's \$11.4 million preliminary budget and swearing in a new member to the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority board.

Commission Chair Debi Randolph opened public comment by noting an MDT open house is scheduled for August 20 in the commission room, where residents can speak with Montana Department of Transportation representatives about county road projects. Randolph also expressed condolences on behalf of the commission following a shooting in White Sulphur Springs earlier in the week.

Winston speed limit discussion draws public support

Commissioners opened discussion on a proposed ordinance to raise the speed limit on Weasel Creek Road through Winston from 15 mph to 25 mph, with no vote taken Tuesday. A written ordinance is expected at the July 22 meeting, with a required second reading and vote scheduled for August 5.

Commissioner Lindsey Richtmeyer summarized data gathered by the sheriff's office using a speed monitoring sign along the roughly 930-foot stretch of road. Of 2,261 total vehicles recorded, about 70 percent were traveling between 16 and 25 mph, 17.5 percent exceeded 25 mph, and just 12.5 percent were at or under 15 mph. Richtmeyer said state law limits speed limits below 25 mph to areas with a school zone or senior center, and no documentation exists explaining how the 15 mph limit was originally set.

Three public commenters spoke in favor of raising the limit. Winston resident Steve Dunbar said drivers are being harassed by a neighbor who has placed unofficial speed limit signs near the road. "We moved out in the country not to be harassed like that," Dunbar said, adding that the current limit doesn't meet statutory criteria.

Audrey Walleser, an eight-year Winston resident, said the road is too often treated as an extension of private yards rather than a public thoroughfare, making the current limit difficult to enforce consistently. She said 25 mph is still cautious, but better reflects how the road functions.

Sheriff Mark Wood said he and another officer drove the stretch and agreed 25 mph is reasonable, citing similar speed limits on main roads through Radersburg and Toston. Wood said his office will speak with the resident putting up unofficial signs. "He can't be sitting out there — that's dangerous," Wood said.

Public Works Director T.J. Gravely noted that if the

Fair Board, 2

to six videographers and photographers — along with a drone operator — will capture live footage for instant replay. Thompson said enough sponsors had been secured to cover the cost this year, with plans to pursue a corporate sponsor earlier next season.

Fair Manager Jessica Erickson reported that pre-registration entries have jumped from 524 in 2025 to 707 this year, driven in part by increases in horticulture, photography, and fine arts. With art entries up significantly, Erickson noted the board will face a challenge finding enough wall space to display an estimated 300 pieces. Of the 474 animal and display entries, 63 are educational displays.

The board is still seeking a second culinary arts judge to help evaluate 83 entries. Val Hornsveld, Vendor Supervisor, volunteered to serve as one judge. The board is also looking for a face painter willing to provide free face painting for fairgoers; anyone with ideas or interest is encouraged to contact the extension office.

On the vendor side, Hornsveld reported food vendor spaces are nearly full, with commercial booths filling steadily ahead of fair week. The Rodeo Board, meanwhile, has been replacing all sponsor signage in the arena — approximately 80 signs — aiming for a cleaner, more professional look, while also making pipe improvements before rodeo weekend.

The entertainment schedule is finalized; a paint party was dropped after registration fell short of the minimum. The fair also debuted new 4-H display bleachers this season, replacing a set of broken risers.

Chair Tayla Clark announced that the tent setup is scheduled for Monday, August 3, beginning at 7:30 a.m., with volunteers needed for the project. The board's next regular meeting is August 13 at 5:15 p.m. A joint meeting with the Rodeo Board is planned for September.

Americanisms



“Friend something better than chocolate ice cream ... Maybe friend somebody you give up last cookie for.”
— *Cookie Monster*

ordinance passes, his department would install updated signage. Commissioners reminded residents that written public comment must be received by 5 p.m. the day before a meeting and can be emailed to the commission.

Preliminary budget adopted

Commissioners unanimously approved the county's fiscal year 2026–27 preliminary budget at approximately \$11.4 million, a roughly 1 percent increase over fiscal year 2026. Finance Officer Debbie Kelly and County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki presented a simplified summary designed to be accessible to residents, with detailed documents available on the county website.

Jarocki said the preliminary budget may be adjusted once property tax revenue estimates arrive, noting that recent changes to state property tax statutes have created uncertainty on the revenue side. Personnel costs account for about 67 percent of the budget; operations and maintenance make up the remaining 33 percent.

Jarocki said Broadwater County came in approximately 8 percent under budget in fiscal year 2025 and appears on track to finish fiscal year 2026 — which closed June 30 — about 7 percent under budget. He credited quarterly budget check-ins with department heads as the primary driver of that fiscal discipline. Commissioners encouraged residents to reach out to Jarocki with questions or suggestions on county spending.

Rail board seat filled

Commissioners appointed J.B. Howick of Townsend to the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority board, replacing Daryl Folkvord, who retired and resigned from the position. Howick, a Townsend City Council member and local business owner, was sworn in for a three-year term by Clerk and Recorder Angie Paulsen.

Howick said passenger rail is expected to reach Townsend between 2032 and 2034. "The question isn't whether the passenger rail will come," he said. "It's a question of whether we will take advantage of it," Randolph noted that Big Sky Passenger Rail is hosting a public conference in Helena on August 25.

TIF application discussed for Wheatland TED

Commissioners reviewed a draft tax increment financing application for the Wheatland Targeted Economic Development District, a commercially zoned area in southern Broadwater County. No action was taken; the draft is under review by the TED committee, with minor corrections noted, including typos and a mischecked box. Community Development Director Nicole Brown noted that a state-funded water study planning grant is underway for the TED area, and that access to water will be critical to future development there.

Commissioners also approved the July 8 minutes, bylaws for both the Townsend and Three Forks mosquito boards, and four sets of claims. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Montana Launches Statewide Campaign to Celebrate Clean Air and Support Tobacco Cessation

Jon Ebelt

DPHHS Communications Director

Following the historic expansion of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act (MCIAA), the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP) has launched a statewide educational campaign to promote smoke-free environments and provide resources to help residents quit nicotine.

Through June 7, patrons at 46 bars and restaurants across Montana will see new educational posters and beverage coasters. These materials celebrate the state’s commitment to clean indoor air while providing a direct link to free cessation services offered through Quit Now Montana.

The campaign follows the passage of Senate Bill 390, which closed a 20-year-old public health gap by adding e-cigarettes to the state’s clean air protections. Signed by Governor Gianforte on May 8, 2025, the law protects Montanans from e-cigarette aerosol in all indoor public places and workplaces.

“The expansion of the Clean Indoor Air Act reinforces healthy social norms,” said Nicole Aune, Section Supervisor of the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Section. “By placing these resources in local establishments, we are celebrating our state’s commitment to clean air while offering a helping hand to those ready to start their quit journey.”

SB 390 updated the legal definition of “smoking” to explicitly include the use of an “electronic smoking device,” including e-cigarettes, dab rigs, and vape pens. Under the MCIAA, businesses are required to:

- Prohibit Vaping: Treat e-cigarettes the same as commercial cigarettes in all enclosed public spaces.
- Post Signage: Display clear signs at all public entrances stating that smoking is prohibited.

Compliance has been exceptionally high since the law took effect. As of May 2026, MTUPP has received only 18 complaints statewide, with just seven businesses found in violation—a testament to the cooperation of Montana’s business community.

“We want to extend a sincere thank you to the many Montana businesses that have proactively embraced these changes,” Aune added. “By adhering to the expanded Act, you are ensuring that every Montanan can enjoy our local establishments while breathing clean, safe air.”

To request free official signage or report violations, visit <https://tobaccofree.mt.gov>

For Montanans looking to quit tobacco or nicotine, free coaching and support are available through QuitNowMontana.com or by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Broadwater County Commissioners Meeting



515 Broadway, Townsend
Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St.

Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at <https://www.broadwatercountymt.gov>.

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Written public comment must be received by 5pm the day before the meeting. This allows time for comments to be reviewed before the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

9:00 AM

Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, in CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

10:00 AM

Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

10:00 AM

Monthly report MCA 7-6-612 from Broadwater County Treasurer, Melissa Franks

10:05 AM

Discussion/Decision, Tax Increment Financing Application for the Wheatland Targeted Economic Development District

10:10 AM

Discussion/Decision, Allison Kosto, Broadwater County Extension Agent, FY 2026 Extension Services Agreement between Montana State University Extension and Broadwater County

10:15 AM

Discussion, Ordinance to change Winston speed limit on Weasel Creek Road from 15mph to 25mph, 61-8-310 (2) MCA

10:20 AM

Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions

Items for Discussion / Decision / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management – on-going advisory board appointments / Board bylaws
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Ongoing and renewing contracts
- Ongoing grants, grant applications
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders
- Mail

Debi Randolph, Chair

(406) 266-9270 or (406) 451-6035

drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

Lindsey Richtmyer

(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

lrichtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson, Vice Chair

(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213

jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov

Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

Please note: These meeting times/dates may change; please check the county website

- TEDD Advisory Committee Meeting on August 10th at 4:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on August 11th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Public Hearing & Regular Meeting on August 11th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on August 11th at 6:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on August 13th at 5:15 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on August 17th at 3:00 PM
- County Parks and Recreation Meeting on August 17th at 6:00 PM
- Three Forks Mosquito Board Meeting on August 18th at 3:30 PM
- Townsend Mosquito Board Meeting on August 18th at 4:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on August 18th at 7:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on August 19th at 6:00 PM
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting on August 20th at 1:00 PM

The Commissioners may be attending these board meetings (except the Planning Board)



**PRECISION
BUSINESS RESOURCES**
ACCOUNTING • BUSINESS MANAGEMENT • TAXES

**Precision Business Resources
– Townsend Office**
We are Remodeling Starting
April 27th until July 4th

Our Townsend office will be operating from our East Helena office during the remodel.

Please call or stop by and see us at: 101 S Lane Ave in East Helena – Office # 406-266-0062

We are excited for this new remodel and look forward to seeing all our Townsend clients in July!

KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

T	D	C
2	7	4
K		S
5		1
E	O	A
8	3	6

STOCKADE

CryptoQuip
answer

I could not think of the name of that basic chemical substance.
I had an elemental block.

SCRAMBLERS
solution

1. Drove; 2. Trope
3. Siren; 4. Rascal

Today's Word
RETIRED

Just Like Cats & Dogs
by Dave T. Phipps

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT GOING GRAY. BY WHAT I'M SEEING, IT'LL HAVE ALL FALLEN OUT BEFORE THAT.



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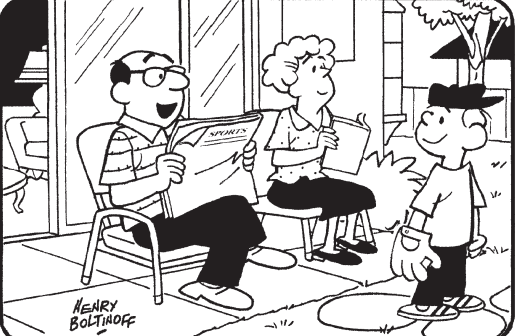
GRIN & BEAR IT
by Wagner



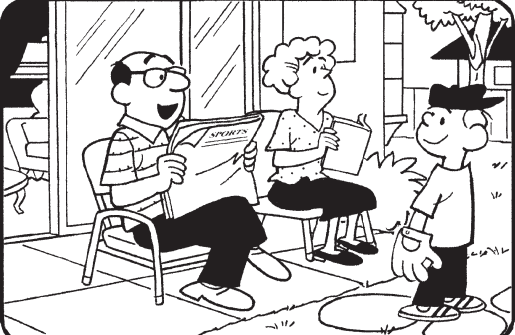
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"I could have been a bigger success than you could have been!"

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Collar is missing. 3. Arm is not showing. 4. Lamp is larger. 5. Window is added to house. 6. Back of chair is smaller.

**HOCUS FOCUS SPONSOR:
SANDY JANES**

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

3	4	2	6	9	1	7	5	8
1	9	6	5	8	7	3	4	2
7	8	5	3	2	4	6	1	9
9	5	1	7	4	8	2	6	3
2	6	8	9	5	3	1	7	4
4	7	3	1	6	2	8	9	5
5	2	9	8	7	6	4	3	1
6	3	4	2	1	9	5	8	7
8	1	7	4	3	5	9	2	6

Super Crossword
Answers

U	N	A	W	A	R	E	S		C	A	R	B	S		A	L	A	S	K	A	
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D	I	S	C	J	O	C	K	E		D	O	N	K	E	Y		K	O	N	G	
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Advertising:
Pre-Designed: **Tue 11 a.m.**
MT43 Designed & Ads
Needing Proof: **Mon 10 a.m.**

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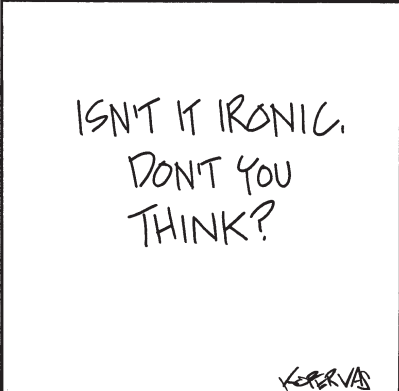
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Out on a Limb



ISN'T IT IRONIC.
DON'T YOU THINK?

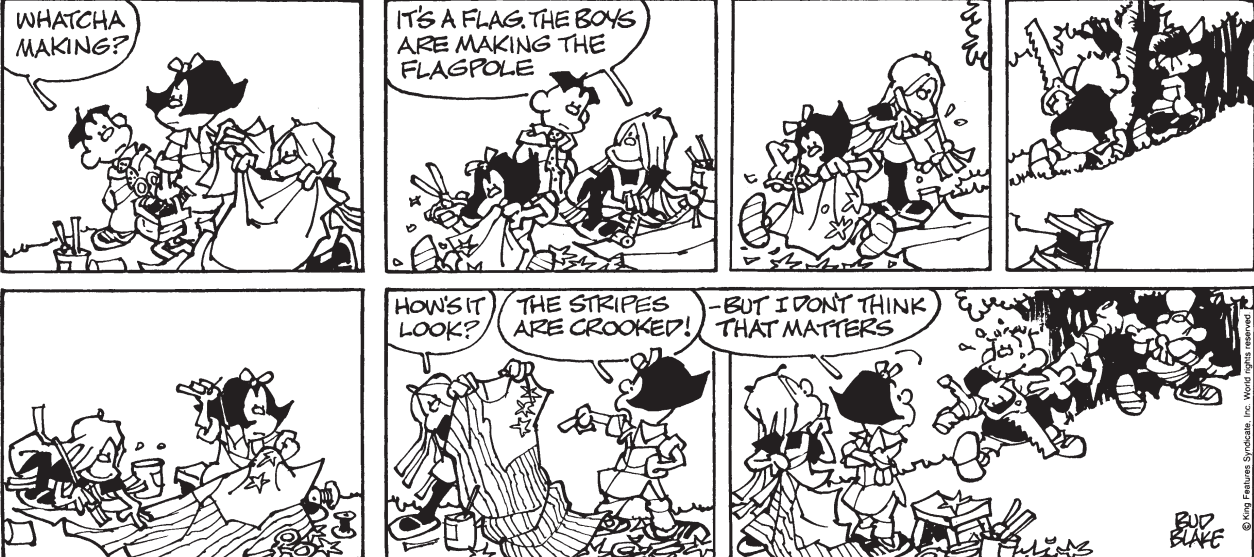
by Gary Kopervas



DANG IT!

A SHEPHERD HAS ZERO FOLLOWERS ON LINKEDIN

TIGER



WHATCHA MAKING?

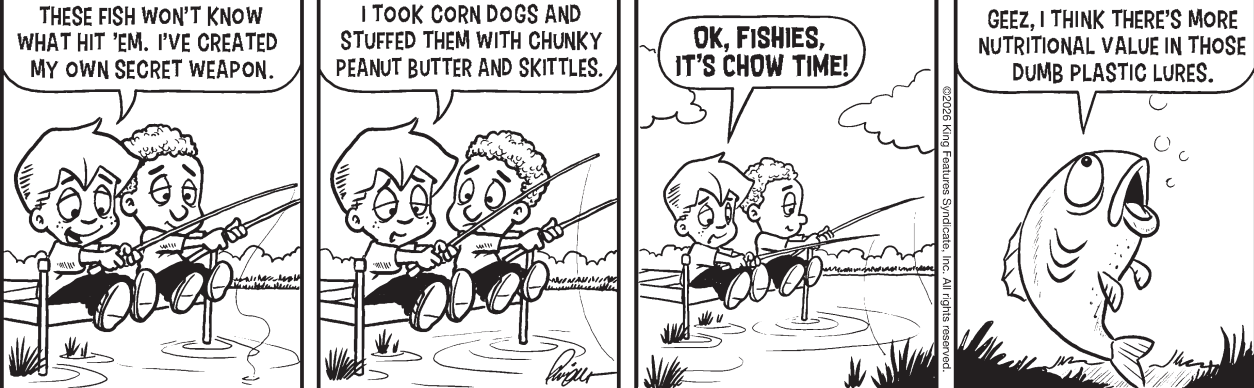
IT'S A FLAG. THE BOYS ARE MAKING THE FLAGPOLE

HOW'S IT LOOK?

THE STRIPES ARE CROOKED!

-BUT I DON'T THINK THAT MATTERS

Amber Waves



THESE FISH WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM. I'VE CREATED MY OWN SECRET WEAPON.

I TOOK CORN DOGS AND STUFFED THEM WITH CHUNKY PEANUT BUTTER AND SKITTLES.

OK, FISHIES, IT'S CHOW TIME!

GEEZ, I THINK THERE'S MORE NUTRITIONAL VALUE IN THOSE DUMB PLASTIC LURES.

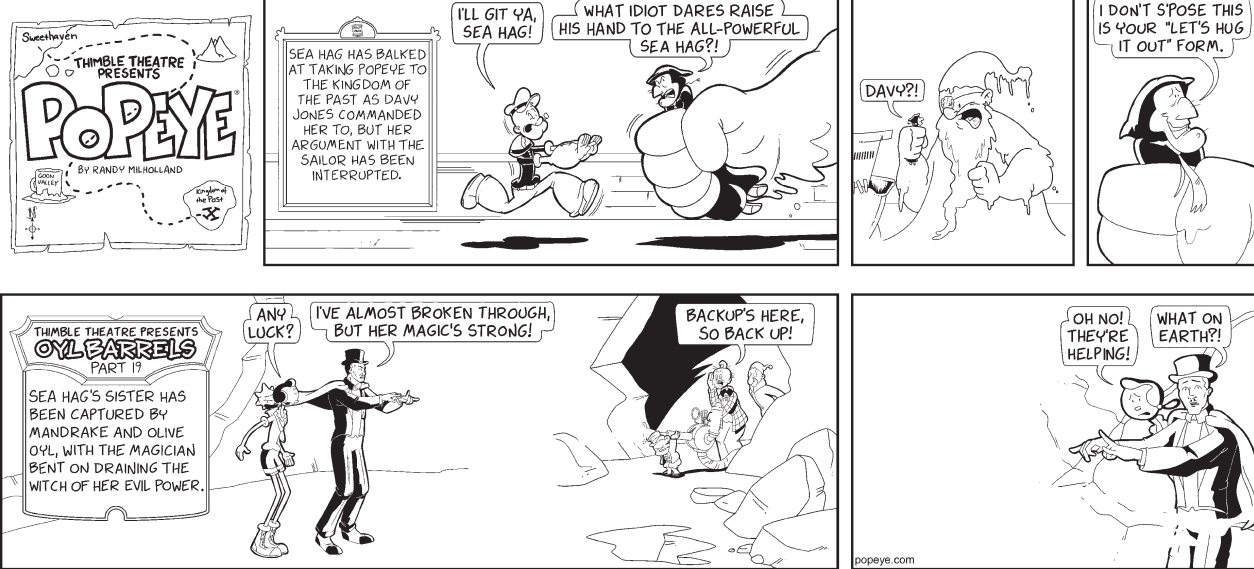
The Spats



I NEED TO JOIN WEIGHT WATCHERS

...BEEN EATING WAY TOO MANY OF MY OWN WORDS LATELY.

POPEYE
BY RANDY MIKHOLLAND



SEA HAG HAS BALKED AT TAKING POPEYE TO THE KINGDOM OF THE PAST AS DAVE JONES COMMANDED HER TO, BUT HER ARGUMENT WITH THE SAILOR HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED.

I'LL GIT YA, SEA HAG!

WHAT IDIOT DARES RAISE HIS HAND TO THE ALL-POWERFUL SEA HAG?!

ANY LUCK?

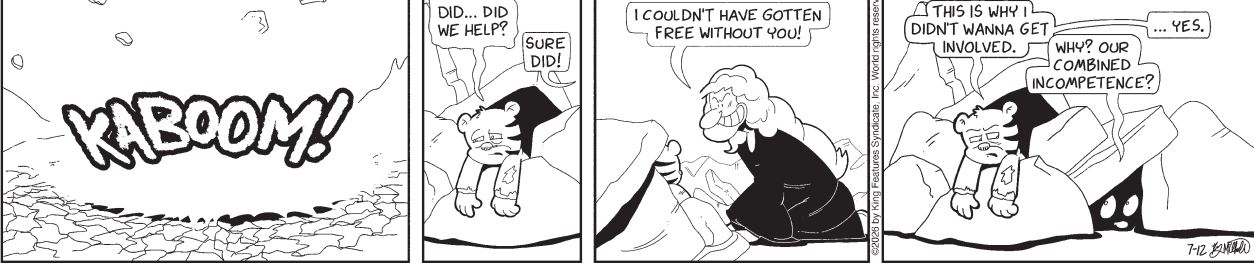
I'VE ALMOST BROKEN THROUGH, BUT HER MAGIC'S STRONG!

BACKUP'S HERE, SO BACK UP!

OH NO! THEY'RE HELPING!

WHAT ON EARTH?!

KABOOM!



DID... DID WE HELP?

SURE DID!

I COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FREE WITHOUT YOU!

THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANNA GET INVOLVED.

WHY? OUR COMBINED INCOMPETENCE?

... YES.

Weed of the Month:

Pineappleweed

Allison Kosto

MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



A weed by a fun name, pineappleweed, isn't a widespread problem, but it can be a nuisance in certain situations.

Description & Habitat



Native to northeastern Asian and the Pacific Northwest (but not Montana), pineappleweed has spread and naturalized across much of North America, including Montana. It is commonly found in lawns, distributed areas, poorly maintained sites, landscape beds and fields. It thrives in compacted soils and high traffic areas but does not like shade. While not a widespread issue, it can be problematic when conditions are right and is often growing where it is not wanted.

Pineappleweed is an annual plant (life cycle of one year) that germinates in the spring and grows through the summer. It can grow 6 to 12 inches tall but tends to be on the shorter side in Montana. It starts as a fern like rosette, then grows into a small plant. Leaves continue to maintain their fernlike appearance, and it looks like a small bush. It is sometimes confused with wild chamomile. It begins flowering in late spring and yellow flowers can be present throughout the summer. They are tiny, densely packed together to form a distinctive egg shape. Pineappleweed gets its name from its unique sweet, pineapple odor, especially when crushed. It reproduces by seed.

Maintaining a healthy and dense lawn or plant community will help reduce pineappleweed. Improving soil conditions, such as compaction where this plant thrives, can also help encourage desirable plants.

As an annual plant, controlling seed production is critical. Hand pulling, tilling and hoeing are effective before seed maturation. Mowing is generally not effective because it can regrow below the height of the mower blade and still reproduce. Mulching is an effective control method where practical. Landscape fabric or organic mulch at least 3 inches thick is necessary.

Herbicides can be effective. Preemergent herbicides are a good option in lawns and perennial landscape areas. Commonly used post-emergent chemicals include Banvel, Trimec, Roundup, and Weedmaster. Always read and follow the entire label when applying herbicide. Common chemical names are used for clarity but do not imply endorsement of a product or brand.

For assistance on weed identification and management, contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242.



St. Peter's Health and Billings Clinic - Explore Partnering to Strengthen Healthcare

Jacquelyn Tescher

Manager of Communications & Marketing

St. Peter's Health and Billings Clinic - Logan Health Explore Partnering to Strengthen Healthcare Across Montana.

St. Peter's Health announced today they are exploring ways to partner that will strengthen and expand local healthcare services. Early discussions have been focused on collaborating in areas such as clinical services, work-force development, operational efficiencies, technology, purchasing, and other strategic initiatives to enhance and expand current care offerings.

"In today's healthcare environment, partnering is essential for improving access to care when there's limited clinical resources," said Wade Johnson, Chief Executive Officer at St. Peter's Health. "We believe Montana's independent health systems can be stronger by working together for our patients."

Billings Clinic – Logan Health has a longstanding history of working with communities across Montana and northern Wyoming to elevate care locally while also maintaining local governance and decision-making. The Montana-based health system has a network of over 25 communities that have united to enhance care and increase efficiency and connectedness.

St. Peter's Health has served as the only Helena-area community hospital for over 140 years, providing trusted, local care while adapting to the evolving needs of the people it serves. Collaboration and successful partnerships with community organizations have long been a focus of its mission.

"At the heart of these conversations is a shared mission and belief that healthcare decisions should remain rooted in the communities we serve," said Dr. Clint Seger, Chief Executive Officer of Billings Clinic-Logan Health. "We can build on our collective strengths."

Leaders from both organizations emphasized that the exploration process is focused on creating long-term benefits for patients, caregivers, physicians, and communities while preserving each health system's commitment to local stewardship. Board members, executives and physician leaders from both organizations have discussed concepts for an expanded relationship and are now ready to move forward with formalizing a Letter of Intent to define goals and objectives. Neither health system is pursuing these discussions as a merger or an acquisition.

"We believe that there is tremendous opportunity in exploring how our teams can work together across the state to share clinical expertise and resources, which in turn helps us better serve our patients and preserve community-focused care," said Dr. Andrew Gilbert, Family Medicine Physician at St. Peter's Health.

The estimated timeline for the assessment process is six to nine months. As additional details are available, updates will be shared along with opportunities for staff, patient, and community input.

Weather & Squirrels

Bill Garwood

Many of us feed and watch our local squirrels and birds too, but they aren't as much fun to watch. I think our Townsend animals know something we don't. Within the last few months, they have all been eating like there is no tomorrow; some have darker fur and act like they are preparing for a very cold winter.

I think they are hiding the fact that they have special knowledge for the coming years' weather! I think the little heathens are hoarding peanuts for colder months. They even look at us like "don't judge me, it's going to get seriously cold, I'm preparing". Ok fine, but couldn't they tell us? Lately they have been chattering in their guttural squirrel language (I think they understand us when we talk to them). What, YOU don't talk to your neighborhood squirrels?

You just knew after being away, I'd be talking about squirrels, didn't you? Our poor local hardware store (I mustn't mention any store names) has been having a hard time keeping peanuts in stock. It seems

Barnes Jewelry

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406-442-3000

Montana Community Foundation Seeks Art and Photography Submissions

Rebecca Connors

Montana Community Foundation

The Montana Community Foundation invites artists and photographers from across the state to participate in our Images that Shape Montana contest. This is an opportunity to share how you see philanthropy shaping our communities, landscapes, and future. There will be four category winners, each receiving \$500. The grand-prize winner will receive \$1,500 and will be featured in Montana Community Foundation publications, on social media, and at an art walk.

"Last year, Montana artists and photographers helped us tell powerful stories of generosity, resilience, and community through their work," said Montana Community Foundation President & CEO Mary Rutherford. "We were inspired by how participants captured the impact of philanthropy, showcasing the people, places, and programs that strengthen our communities. We are excited to invite artists again to share their unique perspective and help us celebrate the power of giving across our state."

Last year's grand prize winner was Jordan Lefler for his photograph, End the Silence. Other category winners included Jessica Bower for her piece, New Pie; Andrew "AJ" Butler for his piece, Heart of Culture; Jordan Lefler for his piece, Casting for Gold; and Bulbul Majumder.

Submissions will be judged in four impact areas central to MCF's mission:

- Education, Equity, & Culture - Artwork that reflects how philanthropy supports inclusive access to education and equitable opportunities that empower all Montanans to succeed.
- Community & Economic Vitality – Art that showcases how giving supports resilient communities, growth, and community development.
- Land & Resiliency - Visual stories of conservation, stewardship, sustainability, or how communities address challenges of an evolving environment.
- Health & Well-being - Representations of how philanthropy enhances the physical, mental, and social health of Montanans.

The contest is open to Montana-based artists and photographers of all levels, ages 16 and up. Parental consent form will be required for minors. All submissions will be featured across Montana Community Foundation's communication channels, and the grand prize winner will be the featured artist of Montana Community Foundation's 2026 Impact Report.

Acceptable mediums include photography, digital art, illustration, painting, and mixed media. The contest opens July 1, the submission deadline is September 18, and winners will be announced on October 16. To learn more or to submit artwork, email communications@mtcf.org or visit mtcf.org/about/images-that-shape-montana.

the distributors misunderstand the stores in Townsend wanting so many bags of peanuts. I know very well I am not the only one ordering them. I have even gone so far as to befriend a "Nut Lady" in a large grocery store, so one way or another I will be supplied!

Our local weather forecasters have a heck of a time guessing our weather patterns up our valley; between the area mountain ranges, the radar doesn't even reach Townsend. I've been watching when they are talking about Montana, and when they go to forecast for us, they kind of just shrug their shoulders and look scared. Maybe if they consulted the state squirrels, they would get factual weather information. I know for a fact every February they ask the Groundhog about winter/spring.

Hunters and farmers have been watching animals for centuries to get a hint about crop futures and yield of deer or elk. I wonder if they watch the squirrels? No self-respecting hunter would admit to talking to squirrels, watching maybe. They DO keep track of geese movements, watching the skies for flocks.

Be nice to your local squirrels; you never know when you might have to stock your pantry with squirrel meat. I hope they can't read, or I'm in a lot of trouble! (Why are they coming closer, and peering in the windows?) The tiny birds, finches, etc., I don't mind - even the ravens or crows. But the in-between cow birds or black birds are a royal pain! They get into the squirrel feeder and filch peanuts; I dislike them intensely!

So, watch the skies and the squirrels, prepare for a COLD winter. THEY KNOW! Enjoy the hot summer folks; I'll be inside mostly, staying cool. Remember: Football season is only a few weeks away.



Ask the Philanthropy Expert

MCF Gift & Estate Planning Director
heather@mtcf.org
406-671-9843

Heather Ohs

Q: As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, what does that milestone mean for philanthropy in Southwest Montana?

A: As our nation marks a major birthday, it's worth remembering that one of our greatest traditions isn't found in history books, but in the generosity of everyday people.

In rural Montana, we know philanthropy looks different than it does in big cities. It's neighbors helping neighbors after a wildfire, volunteers coaching youth sports, people giving to strengthen local institutions, and more. **It's families creating endowments so future generations can continue to call this remarkable place home.**

America was built by people who invested in something larger than themselves. That spirit still defines the communities we live in today.

As you celebrate this July, I encourage you to also celebrate the causes that matter most to you. **Every gift helps ensure that our home remains a place where community and opportunity thrive for generations to come.** Connect with me today to learn how your family can create a legacy.



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

helping you shape Montana's future through giving

MTCF.org

TRIVIA TEST

Fifi Rodriguez

QUESTIONS

- 1. ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?
- 2. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Gateway Arch, known as the tallest arch in the world?
- 3. TELEVISION: Which 1970s sitcom introduced a neighbor named Phyllis Lindstrom?
- 4. HISTORY: When was the first heart transplant performed?
- 5. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Cape Verde islands located?
- 6. MOVIES: Which 1991 film featured a villain named Max Cady?
- 7. MUSIC: When did Taylor Swift's second studio album ("Fearless") win the Country Music Association's Album of the Year award?
- 8. SCIENCE: What is nephology?
- 9. MEASUREMENTS: What instrument is used to measure the depth of oceans?
- 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby deer called?

ANSWERS

- 1. 33.
- 2. St. Louis, Missouri.
- 3. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show."
- 4. 1967.
- 5. Off the west coast of Africa.
- 6. "Cape Fear."
- 7. 2009.
- 8. The scientific study of clouds.
- 9. An echo sounder or fathometer.
- 10. A fawn or calf.

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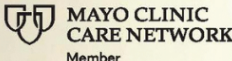
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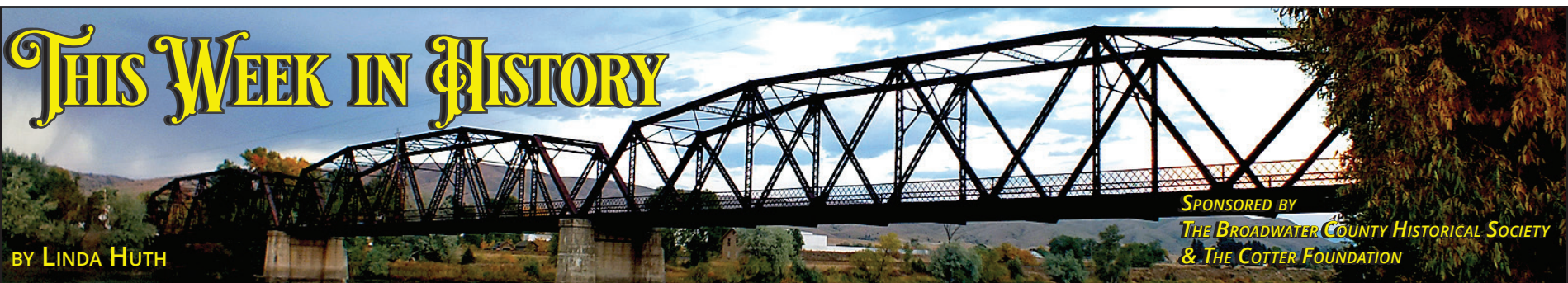
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July 25

1903

Toston Topics

The sofa cushion that Miss Violet Burton raffled off at the store last week was won by Beecher Beathan. It brought about \$12.75. She is now raffling one at Radersburg. We think Violet ought to have help in this work as she has taken this means to earn money to pay her own way to the high school next winter.

Jake Ross has a crew of men at work putting up hay on the Tom Davis place.

Pierce Liippert of Poverty Flat passed through town Sunday on his way to Crow Creek.

Local News

D.D. McCarthy and wife, accompanied by Miss Mary Teague, departed Tuesday morning for an extended trip on the Pacific coast. They will visit all points of interest from Spokane to Portland and south along the coast.

We are asked to state to the public that the report that water reaches the graves in the cemetery at Centerville is maliciously false. Anyone who knows the nature of the land there will verify this statement.

E.H. Goodman displayed at this office Thursday, a species of Russian thistle which, he says, is growing abundantly on the banks of the Montana ditch. He sent a specimen to Bozeman for inspection at the Agricultural college. The weed is much to be dreaded, as it saps the life of the ground and dwarfs everything in the vegetation line in its wake.

1925

Toston's Main Block Burns; Earthquake-damaged Chimney cause of Fire That Destroyed Entire Business Section

Tuesday morning the little town of Toston was a sorry spectacle after the ravage of fire had worked its destruction during the night and early morning, completely demolishing the entire business block including the Toston Mercantile Company's store owned by Mrs. B.F. Bembrick and stock owned by B.B. Briscoe; the Toston Hardware Company's store and stock; Pool Hall; Ice Cream Parlor; Barber shop; a vacant store building and the residence of Mrs. Mary Shull. The loss is said to reach the \$40,000 mark, the buildings

and stock being partially covered by insurance. The fire was discovered about 11:30, almost immediately after it started, but the inadequacy of the fire department and the lack of city water made it impossible to check the flames before they had spread from one building to another, completely destroying the entire block. The cause of the fire is thought to have been caused from a defective chimney caused by the recent earthquake in the Toston Hardware company's store.

The local volunteer fire department unable to cope with the conflagration sent for help from Townsend and Three Forks, a carload of Townsend firemen reaching the scene of the calamity in time to almost stop the fire before it completely wrecked Ben Briscoe's store, but their chemicals gave out and oils and gas in the basement gave fresh food for the hungry flames, causing them to abandon the business houses and confine their aid to saving the residence of R.M. O'Hearn a frame house joining the businesses houses across the alley. For a time it looked as if the Brown Bros. Lumber Company's office and the Toston Hotel were doomed, but a wind change took the smoke and fire back over the burned area, saving those places.

The fire placed the telephone exchange out of commission for several hours.

We understand most of the buildings were property of Mrs. Shull, who intends to rebuild as soon as possible.

1953

Local News

Mrs. Howard Doggett and daughter, Judy, returned Monday from a motor trip to Salt Lake City and across to Steam Boat Springs, Col.

Mr. R.W. Lundborg and sons, Larry and Bobby, have gone to North Dakota to visit relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Vana Voast were recent visitors in Hamilton. They had contemplated buying land there, but say their plans are now indefinite.

Miss Laurie McCarthy is here spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene McCarthy, from Berkley, where she has been registrar in the general office at the university.

Mrs. Ed Ragen and Mrs. W.J. Gaab called on Mrs. Chas. S. Muffley near Winston one day this week. Mrs. Muffley reopened her home here again the first of June after having spent the winter in San Diego with her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Heberle and son, Larry, Ronnie

Barraugh and Mr. and Mrs. Al Brothers have returned from a two weeks vacation trip to Canada and Glacier Park.

1970

Radersburg News

The people of Radersburg wish to thank the Townsend Fire Department for the two trips they made to help put out the fire at the dump and also those who came from Townsend, Toston and Crow Creek Valley and the Webbs for their sprayer and tractor. A thank you doesn't seem hardly enough when your home is in danger, but we all thank these kind people from the bottom of our hearts.

Miss Pearl Kitto of Crow Creek Valley visited Mrs. Charlie Hough Friday.

Miss Connie Roberts returned to Helena with Mr. and Mrs. Benny Skillman Sunday evening. She is employed in York.

Mrs. Tops Ralls spent a week visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ralls and other friends and relatives in Radersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Roberts and son, Doug, were in Butte Friday to meet their son, Teddy, who arrived here by plane. Teddy is home from the service after spending two years in the Marines.

Mrs. Lynn Colby and sons of Townsend visited Tuesday with her mother, Mrs. Rudy Puttin.

Mr. and Mrs. Benny Skillman of Helena spent the weekend at their home here. Their friends gave them a housewarming Sunday afternoon and evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harris of Helena came Sunday, July 12, to help Mrs. Bud Harris celebrate her birthday. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. George Harris and family, Sue, Rita and Terry and Harry Allen.

Mrs. Bud Harris and daughters, Sue and Rita, and Barbara and Ronnie Harris spent a couple of days visiting with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bruce.

Wednesday, July 15, the Williams brothers, Bill and John, took cattle into their summer pasture, which is called the Holdaway Place. There were eight riders, and the rest went along for a picnic lunch at the Jim Sitton cabin. They were Mr. and Mrs. Vic Miller, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. (Bill) Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Williams and daughter, Kathy, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Williams and two daughters, Micki and Robin, Mrs. Art Sitton, Mrs. Ron White and four children, Gloria Bieber, Connie Roberts, Glen Griffith, Roger Dundas, Mr. and Mrs. John Wolliams and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sitton.

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YARD & GARDEN TOUR **2026**

Radersburg, County Residents Comment on Antimony Concentrating Facility

MT43 News Staff Reporter

US Antimony Corporation announced two weeks ago that it would begin processing hauled-in ore from its Thompson Falls facility at its Radersburg location. Governor Greg Gianforte and USAC officials gathered near the Radersburg Cemetery for a "rock breaking" of the upgraded facility. The story ran in the July 17 edition of MT43News.

In an email statement July 20 from USAC's Antimony Division Vice President Aaron Tenesch, he explained the company would bring in one truck a day from Thompson Falls, probably fewer; and the current plant could process up to 150 tons per day but may process less due to the high grade of current antimony feedstocks. As for tailings left over from processing, he explained the facility would store them in a double-lined storage unit with a leak detection system as it has for many years.

Information about the ceremony came through the grapevine for Broadwater County Commissioners and the public at large. Commission Chairperson Debi Randolph said they knew the facility had been sold in January of this year. "We knew nothing about the rock breaking, but, after the fact, when we connected with one of the officials, they agreed to meet with us in August. We are still gathering information to see what their needs will be from us," she said.

The ball mill was built in the 1980's by longtime Crow Creek Valley residents Bill Lavender and Dennis Miller. In an interview, Miller said they began processing gold from their holdings in the Ohio Keating mine, which is nearby. After running the bulk ore through the mill, they assayed the results to remove gold, which was poured into 40oz bars. ASARCO Smelter at East Helena then took the tailings for further smelting. Miller and Lavender operated the plant 4

or 5 years, he remembered, but then they sold out. Several other mining companies and individuals have owned the facility, including Pegasus Mining Company.

Radersburg and Crow Creek Valley are big cattle ranching areas, but its roots go back to mining and ore processing, especially when the Toston Smelter operated in the 1880's. Gold and silver mines have continued to operate in the area until recently. So what do the locals think about new folks coming into the area to process ore?

Longtime rancher and now retired Jackie Smith lives in Radersburg proper. She thinks the newly opened plant will be fine. "I don't think the operation will impact Radersburg negatively at all. Honestly, I see it as a good thing. They will be hiring trained, educated people. Since the trucks won't come through town, we won't notice any more traffic than we already have. There are houses and lots for sale in town, which the new people might be interested in buying."

Smith said she attended part of the ceremony and visited with officials. They had asked the Cemetery Association if the company could attach their sign to the cemetery sign on Highway 285. "They've offered to bring in gravel for the road to the cemetery, which is across from the plant. It seems like they'll work with us," she concluded.

Not everyone is happy with the new business in town, however. Twenty-year Crow Creek Valley rancher Bobbie Hicks owns much of the ground around the processing plant. She, her son and her grandson live not far from the facility. She was emphatic when she said, "We don't want them here."

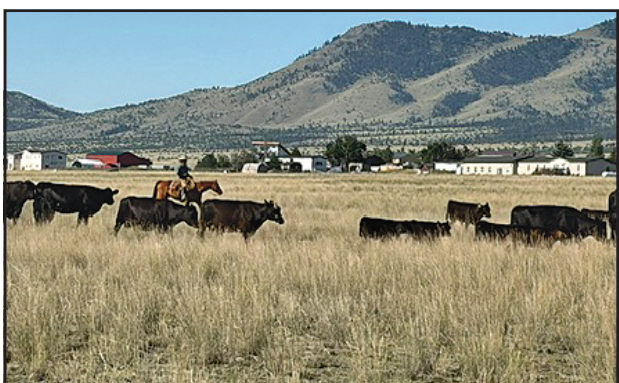
According to her, some of USAC personnel came to her door wanting to buy some acreage around the facility. Not for sale, she said. They came back asking to buy 20 acres next to the plant. When she said no a second time, she said, "They threatened me. They said, 'That's your second chance.'

Moving Cows to New Pasture

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Broadwater County ranchers are determined to be good stewards of the land, despite when climate change brings drought and hot weather.

As their herd grazes down one area, they move the cows and calves to a fresh pasture. This activity takes place all season long while allowing ranchers and their families to enjoy being outdoors and working together.



Ranchers are seeing more and more subdivisions move near their pasture ground, so they adapt to the changing times. MT43 News Photo



A rider on a paint horse pushes the stragglers. MT43 News Photo